

Please delete the section entitled “ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE” in its entirety and substitute the following section therefor:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides an instruction for employment by a device. The instruction directs the device to perform a cryptographic operation. The instruction has and opcode field and a repeat prefix field. The opcode field prescribes that the device accomplish the cryptographic operation as further specified within a control word stored in a memory. The repeat prefix field is coupled to the opcode field. The repeat prefix field indicates that the cryptographic operation prescribed by the instruction is to be accomplished on a plurality of blocks of input data.~~apparatus and method for performing cryptographic operations on a plurality of input data blocks within a processor. In one embodiment, an apparatus for performing cryptographic operations is provided. The apparatus includes a cryptographic instruction and execution logic. The cryptographic instruction is received by logic within a processor, wherein said cryptographic instruction prescribes one of the cryptographic operations. The execution logic is coupled to said logic. The execution logic performs the one of the cryptographic operations.~~